

WORKSHOP NOTICE

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission

DATE: October 9, 2001

RE: Section 13-517: Advanced Services Deployment Requirement

HB 2900 added Section 13-517 to the Illinois Public Utilities Act. This new Section requires all incumbent local exchange carriers to "offer or provide advanced telecommunications services to not less than 80% of its customers by January 1, 2005." The new Section also allows the Illinois Commerce Commission "to grant a full or partial waiver" of such requirement. The Commission can only grant a waiver request if it determines that such waiver:

(1) is necessary:

- (A) to avoid a significant adverse economic impact on users of telecommunications services generally;
- (B) to avoid imposing a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome;
- (C) to avoid imposing a requirement that is technically infeasible; or
- (D) to avoid imposing a requirement that is otherwise impractical to implement in exchanges with low population density; and

(2) is consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity.

The new law also states that "the Commission may by rule establish standards for granting any waiver of the requirements of this section."

This notice is to announce the first workshop that allows all interested parties to express their views on these important issues. Among other things, Staff is interested to receive input on how affected carriers are planning to implement the new requirement of Section 13-517. Staff would also like to discuss proper timing and organization of a Commission proceeding that would establish standards for granting waivers of the advanced services rollout requirement. Another issue to be discussed during the workshop concerns the specific timeframe during which waivers can be filed.

The first workshop will take place on **October 17, 2001** from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CDT in the Commission's offices at 527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois. Any interested party unable to attend at this location may dial into an audio bridge on 1-877-865-6800 (pass code 7429989).

For more information please contact Torsten Clausen at (217) 524-5068 or tclausen@icc.state.il.us.